By ACRIMED ABDULLAH

THE MANWITH THE LIMP

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A Ripping

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SUDDENLY, round the corner whirled a shabby old depot hack; it was plainly empty, but the wellknown negro driver seemed to be in a desperate hurry. He lashed the horses to a run.

"Wonder who's goin' to miss his train to-night," laughed Mr. Ludlum.

But the driver turned in to the Ludlum curb, threw his weight backward and checked the horses so sharply that they slid, and their shoes scratched sparks from the stone.

The driver stood up in his pulpit and shouted at the porch.

"Oh, Miz. Ludlum, your boy's

Then he struck out with his whip; the horses plunged, the hack careened round the next corner and was gone.

> Rupert Hughes in "The Father of Waters"

COMERS suddenly came to action. He jerked a revolver from his pocket, and there was a spurt of flame, the bullet slashing by my ear.

reared perilously near the edge of the road. Choked with rage, I tugged at the reins, keeping my eyes on Somers. There seemed no escape, and I couldn't even curse. I opened my mouth to shout; but the sudden rush of blood to my head caused a warm trickle in the very center of my forehead.

The frightened mare swerved and

Somers instantly perceived it. It seemed to stagger him, for my eyes never left his face as I struggled with the reins. His imagination thoroughly tricked him. Slowly, with an expression of horror, he backed away into the darkness, still covering me uncertainly with his revolver but not daring to fire again. Then to my ears there came another sound from up the valley—the ringing, ringing of the tonga horn.

> William Ashley Anderson in "The Tryst" December Cosmopolitan

"HAT'S cheap and noisy melodrama!" he scoffed, albeit a bit worriedly. "What do you

"I mean just this," she said: "Life is not worth the living without you. I came here to claim my rights. If you refuse me those rights, I'm not going on living. And I shall end things here and now, I have thought it all out. And I've come, ready," she finished, with a slight gesture toward the hand-bag she carried on her wrist. "I am not bluffing, Rolf. You have deserted me. You have wronged me, You'll take me back or there will be a human sacrifice here to adorn your wedding-night. Make your own choice."

The man felt a twinge of physical nausea at her flamboyant threats and at a memory they evoked.

> Albert Payson Terhune in "After the Ceremony" December Cosmopolitum

HEN Jim walked out of the barn he walked into a determined young fist and some very unpleasant, choking language. But the return blow, though Sanford got ready for it as quickly as he could manage, didn't follow. Jim didn't go down; he only staggered a little, clenched his fists, and stood still.

"What do you mean, you-you" Sanford spluttered.

"You've got your weight on the wrong foot, Sanford," said Jim. "If I got in quick with my left, where would you be? You want to think about those things, you know, when you go round punching people,"

"Don't call me 'Sanford.' And I want you to know that I'm here to protect my sister—" "All right, Mr. Berrian. Do you figure that you've protected her enough now, or do you want

to hit me again?"

Josephine Daskam Bacon in "Home, James" December Commodition

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